



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

January 15, 2008

**S. 2160
Veterans Pain Care Act of 2007**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs
on November 14, 2007*

S. 2160 would require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to implement an initiative on pain care at all VA health care facilities, under which VA would assess and appropriately treat acute and chronic pain. In addition, the bill would require VA to establish a program of research and training on treatment for acute and chronic pain—including centers for research and education on pain—and to appoint a national coordinator to oversee those programs.

According to VA, the department has already implemented appropriate pain assessment and management protocols at its medical facilities. Based on information from VA regarding similar research programs, CBO expects that under S. 2160, VA would establish three pain research and training centers at an estimated annual cost of about \$1 million each. Therefore, CBO estimates that implementing the provisions on research, training, and education would cost \$2 million in 2008 and \$17 million over the 2009-2013 period, assuming appropriation of the estimated amounts. This estimate further assumes that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for similar programs and that the bill will be enacted this spring. Enacting the bill would have no effect on direct spending or revenues.

S. 2160 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Sunita D'Monte. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.